

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 SNM-02 /013 W

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R 161034Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3143

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 4540

NEW DELHI FOR DEA

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR,NP

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: HEROIN IN NEPAL

1. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED REPORTS FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES, SOME OF THEM INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING, THAT HEROIN IS NOW BEING SOLD IN KATHMANDU ON COMMERCIAL BASIS. ACCORDING TO STORIES DOUBLE-O BROWN HEROIN IS BEING SMUGGLED FROM BANGKOK TO KATHMANDU FOR SALE TO INCREASING NUMBERS OF FOREIGN, AS WELL AS NEPALI, PURCHASERS. PRICE ESTIMATES VARY, BUT ONE SOURCE REPORTS THAT HEROIN AVAILABLE AT 50 RUPEES (APPROXIMATELY \$4) PER GRAM.

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE SPOKEN WITH ADMITTED USERS WHO CONFIRM INFORMATION THAT HEROIN TRAFFIC HAS INCREASED MARKEDLY IN PAST SIX MONTHS AND IS, FOR THE FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, BECOMING SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF DRUG PICTURE IN NEPAL. IN PAST SOME HEROIN HAS ALWAYS BEEN AVAILABLE BUT BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN IMPORTED BY USERS FOR PERSONAL USE.

3. WE HAVE HEARD OTHER RUMORS THAT NEPAL IS BECOMING WAY STATION FOR DOUBLE-O HEROIN SHIPPED FROM HONG KONG AND BANGKOK FOR RESHIPMENT OVERLAND TO MIDDLE EAST AND POSSIBLY EUROPE. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED FEAR IN PAST THAT RELATIVELY LAX BORDER CONTROLS COULD ATTRACT DEALERS TO USE KATHMANDU AS TRANSSHIPMENT POINT.

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4. EMBASSY HAS COLLECTED SOME INFORMATION, INCLUDING NAMES

OR DESCRIPTIONS OF PERSONS REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN HEROIN TRAFFIC. SOME INFORMAL SOURCES HAVE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SUPPLY MORE DETAILED INFORMATION AND TO COOPERATE WITH EFFORTS TO BRING PROBLEM TO ATTENTION OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES. THESE SOURCES, HOWEVER, MAY THEMSELVES BE INVOLVED IN HASHISH TRADE AND AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT THEIR OFFER OF ASSISTANCE RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS ON METHODS OF OPERATION.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT SITUATION IS SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO WARRANT VISIT TO KATHMANDU BY DEA REPRESENTATIVE KELLY IN NEAR FUTURE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE HIS ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION BASED ON FIRST-HAND OBSERVATION AND OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY EMBASSY SOURCES, AS WELL AS HIS ADVICE ON BEST METHODS TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER SUCH VISIT COULD BE ARRANGED. CARGO

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